AMENDEMNTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended):   A system comprising a control unit that receives images associated with two or more regions of a local environment, the two or more regions each being serviced by and associated with respective telephone extensions, the control unit processing the images to identify, from a group of known persons associated with the local environment, any one or more known persons located in the ~~and~~ respective regions ~~associated with the identified known persons~~ and, ~~for~~ responsive to each known person being so identified by image processing, generating an indicium that associates the known person with ~~the~~ a respective region, from among the two or more regions, in which the known person is located ~~in response to the identified known person from the processed image~~, the control unit being operative to automatically route an incoming call, based upon the image processing ~~to at least one of the identified known persons at a telephone extension based on the respective identified region without an input by a caller~~.

2.(previously presented):   The system of Claim 1 further comprising two or more cameras that provide the images associated with the two or more regions of the local environment, each region having associated therewith at least one of the two or more cameras, wherein images captured by the at least one camera associated with each region are processed to identify any known persons located in the respective region.

3.(original):   The system of Claim 1, wherein the indicium generated by the control unit, for each known person identified, that associates the known person with the respective region in which the known person is located is incorporated in a signal.

4.(original):   The system of Claim 3 further comprising a private branch exchange (PBX), wherein the signal is output by the control unit to the PBX.

5.(original):   The system of Claim 4, wherein, for each known person identified, the PBX uses the signal to create a record that associates the known person with the telephone exchange servicing the respective region in which the known person is located.

6.(original):   The system of Claim 5, wherein, when the PBX receives an incoming call for one known person of the group of known persons and determines that one of the records relates to the one known person, the PBX connects the call to the telephone extension associated with the one known person in the record.

7.(original):   The system as in Claim 1, wherein the indicium, for each known person identified, that associates the known person with the respective region is incorporated in a record maintained in the control unit.

8. (Canceled)

9.(currently amended): A system comprising a control unit that receives images associated with two or more regions of a local environment, the two or more regions each being serviced by a respective telephone branch, the control unit processing the images to detect any persons located in the respective regions and operable to associate at least one detected person located from the processed images with a respective one of the regions so as to automatically switch an incoming call, based upon the image processing, to at least one of the respective telephone branches ~~based on~~ servicing the one identified region ~~without an input from a caller~~.

10.(currently amended): A method for directing an incoming telephone call, the method comprising:

capturing images associated with each of a number of regions of a local environment;

identifying, from a group of known persons each associated with the local environment, any known persons in each of the number of regions from the captured images associated with each of the number of regions;

identifying a desired recipient of the incoming call;

determining, based upon the identified known persons from the captured images, a respective one of the regions for routing the incoming call upon identifying the desired recipient; and

~~generating an indicium that associates the determined desired recipient with the respective region from the captured image; and~~

4

automatically routing the incoming call to an extension servicing the respective region in which the desired recipient is located ~~without an input from a caller~~.

11.(previously presented):   The method of Claim 10, wherein the capturing images associated with each of a number of regions comprises, for one or more of the regions, directing at least one camera to at least a portion of the region.

12.(previously presented):   The method of Claim 10, wherein the capturing images associated with each of a number of regions comprises, for one or more of the regions, positioning a camera to capture images at an entrance of the region.

13.(previously presented):   The method of Claim 10, wherein the identifying any known persons from the captured images includes applying image recognition processing to the images.

14.(previously presented):   The method of Claim 13, wherein the application of the image recognition processing to the images includes accessing a database of image data for the group of known persons.

15.(previously presented):   The method of Claim 10, wherein the capturing images further comprises creating a record associating each known person identified from the captured images with the respective region in which the known person is located.

16.(currently amended): The method of Claim 15, wherein the determining a respective one of the regions includes ~~whether the desired recipient is one of the known persons identified in one of the regions in step b comprises~~ searching the records relating to each known person and the respective region in which the known person is located.

17.(currently amended):   A method for directing an incoming telephone call, the method comprising:

capturing images associated with each of a number of regions of a local environment;

detecting any persons located in each of the number of regions from the captured images;

identifying each of the number of regions in association with the persons detected from the captured images; and

automatically connecting an incoming call, based upon the captured images, ~~to at least one of the detected persons~~ to an extension servicing at least one of the identified regions associated with a person detected from the captured images ~~in which the at least one detected person is located without an input from a caller~~.

18.(currently amended):   A system comprising a control unit that receives images associated with two or more regions of a local environment, the two or more regions each being serviced by a respective telephone extension, the control unit processing the images to identify, from a group of known persons associated with the local environment, any one or more known persons located in ~~and~~ the respective regions ~~associated with the identified~~

6

known persons and, responsive to for each known person identified by image processing, generating an indicium that associates the known person with the a respective region, from among the two or more regions, in which the known person is located in response to the identified known person from the processed image, wherein if no known persons are identified in any region by image processing, the control unit directs an incoming call to a region where any person is detected without an input by a caller.

19.(previously presented): The system of Claim 1 wherein if a known person is in a region wherein no phone is present, the control unit will direct an incoming call for that known person to an adjacent region where a phone is present.

20.(new): The system of Claim 1, wherein said control unit further processes images to detect predetermined gestures of a person and call routing is controlled according to identified predetermined gestures of a person.